



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

NOV 9 2015

OFFICE OF THE
REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR

Colonel William J. Leady, District Engineer
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street, 14th floor
Sacramento, California 95814-2922

Subject: Public Notice number SPK-2008-00861 for the proposed California WaterFix project,
Sacramento, San Joaquin, Alameda, Contra Costa, and Yolo counties, California

Dear Colonel Leady:

I am writing regarding the proposed discharges of dredged or fill material associated with the California WaterFix project, as described in the subject Public Notice, pursuant to paragraph 3(b) of our agencies' 1992 Memorandum of Agreement implementing Section 404(q) of the Clean Water Act.

The location of the proposed discharges, the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento-san Joaquin Delta (Bay Delta), is an aquatic resource of national importance. The Bay Delta supports hundreds of aquatic and terrestrial species, many threatened or endangered, and serves as the hub for federal and state water projects that provide drinking water to over 27 million Californians and irrigation water to 4 million acres of farmland. In 1987, Congress recognized its significance by directing EPA to give it priority consideration under the National Estuary Program to attain and maintain water quality for water supplies and the protection and propagation of indigenous fish, shellfish, and wildlife.

According to the Public Notice, the proposed discharges will result in the permanent loss or conversion of approximately 775 acres of waters of the United States, including tidal marsh and forested wetlands. Additionally, the proposed project operations will affect the direction, volume, and timing of freshwater flows through the Delta. As the Bay Delta ecosystem has suffered significant degradation, it is essential that the direct and secondary effects of the proposed discharges avoid further contribution to its degradation. Unless mitigated, the proposed discharges will have substantial and unacceptable impacts on the Bay Delta ecosystem, and EPA is committed to working with federal and state stakeholders to avoid these impacts and ensure water supply security for California.

Please do not hesitate to call me at (415) 947-4235 or have your Regulatory Division Chief contact Jason Brush, our Wetlands Section Supervisor, at (415) 972-3483.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jared Blumenfeld".

Jared Blumenfeld

cc: Will Stelle, Regional Administrator, National Marine Fisheries Service, West Coast Region
Ren Lohofener, Regional Director, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Pacific Southwest Region
David Murillo, Regional Director, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid Pacific Region
Tom Howard, Executive Director, California State Water Resources Control Board
Mark Cowin, Director, California Department of Water Resources
Cassandra Enos-Nobriga, Program Manager, Department of Water Resources
Chuck Bonham, Director, California Department of Fish and Wildlife